

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6

INCIDENT NO. 2002- 007

DATE: January 22, 2002

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train Derailment – A large anhydrous ammonia plume enveloped significant portions of the Minot area when a 112-car train derailed on Friday, January 18.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Of the 13 individuals hospitalized at Trinity Medical Center in Minot, two remain in the intensive care unit in stable condition. A total of 320 people were treated at the Edison Elementary School aid station and at Trinity. The Fifth Medical Group of the Minot Air Force Base provided care to 29 individuals.
3. DAMAGES: Responders continue to report periodic increases in anhydrous ammonia levels as workers remove derailed cars and contaminated soil is disturbed.

Canadian Pacific Railway today estimated that 10 rail cars lost 300,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia that was released into air, soaked into the soil, or was recaptured during cleanup efforts.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from the previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On the morning of January 22, Governor John Hoeven received a briefing from state and local officials about the status of cleanup efforts at the derailment site. The work is taking place in two phases, the first of which involves removal of anhydrous ammonia and damaged freight cars from the site. Officials for Canadian Pacific Railway expect to remove all cars and debris by midnight tonight. Cars will be removed to a staging area and inspected by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) as part of its ongoing investigation into the cause of the accident. Crews hope to begin bedwork for track restoration by tomorrow. Additional truckloads of Zeolite, a neutralizing agent for absorbing the anhydrous from the soil, are enroute from a Utah mine. During the second phase, the cars will be removed, and remediation work of contaminated soil will take place.

Representatives of the N.D. Department of Health are working with First District Health Unit to develop a public information package. The package will describe environmental and medical monitoring.

Local and state health officials have been meeting with residents of the Tierricita Vallejo subdivision to address their concerns about exposure to anhydrous ammonia. They have also been providing residents with cleanup information.

A Critical Incident Stress Debriefing session will be held for members of the city of Minot and Minot Rural Fire Departments on Sunday, January 27.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director